



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format for read-out of data stored in the target machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the target machine via the communication line,

the target machine

storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the communication line,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine,

reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the target machine on the basis of the analysis result,

preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line, and

the center machine

storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line, and obtaining data by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

2. **(Original)** A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said center machine is a personal computer.

3. **(Original)** A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said communication line is the Internet.

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Original)** A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said center machine and said target machine are provided with firewalls at connection stages with the Internet.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the target machine via the communication line,

the target machine

storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the communication line,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine,

writing data in a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the target machine based on a result of the analysis,

preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined XML format when writing of the data has been completed, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line, and

the center machine storing the ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line, and confirming that data has

normally been written by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Previously Presented)** A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected to the Internet,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format for read-out of data stored in the image forming apparatus, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,

the image forming apparatus

storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the Internet,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the image forming apparatus,

reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the image forming apparatus on the basis of the analysis result,

preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the image forming apparatus via the Internet, and obtaining data by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

9. (Previously Presented) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected to the Internet,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the image forming apparatus, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,

the image forming apparatus

storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the Internet,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the image forming apparatus,

writing data in a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the image forming apparatus based on a result of the analysis,

preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined XML format when writing of the data has been completed, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine storing the ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the image forming apparatus via the Internet, and confirming that data has normally been written by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format as “read-out of telephone book” for read-out of data stored in the target machine.

12. (Previously Presented) A data transfer method according to claim 6, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine as “write of telephone book,” and

wherein the data written in the designated area in the non-volatile memory stored in the target machine is written in the designated area as “write of designated area in telephone book.”

13. (Previously Presented) A data transfer method according to claim 8, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format as “read-out of telephone book” for read-out of data stored in the target machine.

14. (Previously Presented) A data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine as “write of telephone book,” and

wherein the data written in the designated area in the non-volatile memory stored in the target machine is written in the designated area as “write of designated area in telephone book.”